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CHINESE MAKE PROGRESS IN REFORESTATION

[Summary: Good response from forestry workers followed the directive issued by the Ministry of Forestry of the Central People's Government in mid-September 1953 urging economy and increased production. China still lacks machines and large numbers of trained workers for forestry labor. Waste is being corrected in the use of lumber for packaging. Lan-chou, Kansu Province, plans extensive afforestation. Many trees have been planted in Fukien Province and along the banks of the Yellow River.]

The Ministry of Forestry has instructed authorities in southern China to promote the planting of eucalyptus trees.]

INCREASED PRODUCTION AND ECONOMY IN FORESTRY MATTERS -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 2 Nov 53

In response to the directive issued in mid-September 1953 by the Ministry of Forestry of the Central People's Government urging that forestry production quotas be surpassed, forestry workers all over the nation have been holding conferences to discuss methods for accomplishing this goal. First statistics indicate that the value of economies effected and the value of extra lumber produced will be 480 billion yuan.

Methods used include making use of the fourth class and unclassified lumber clearing out the rotten timber, but salvaging what is usable, employing more rapid turnover of capital, making better use of spring floods to float out the timber, and processing unclassified lumber so that it becomes marketable.

Kwangtung Province has already exceeded its lumber production goal for 1953 by 20 percent. This province guarantees that beginning with October it will produce 200,000 cubic meters of lumber per month and distribute 175,000 cubic meters. This is 40 percent more than its original quota.

PROMOTION OF FORESTRY WORK -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 4 Nov 53

China still lacks machines that can contribute powerfully to forest construction and has as yet no large force of trained forestry workers for this task. Only the leisure time of farmers can be employed.

Constant instruction must be given the farmers that they may advance from thought of personal gain in the use of timber to the broader view of the nation's welfare. They must be led to consider future rather than the immediate profits from cutting trees. Much time must elapse before afforestation will produce adequate supplies of lumber. In the case of the recently planted protective belts of trees in eastern Honan and western Hopei good effects are already evident.

WASTE BEING CORRECTED IN USE OF LUMBER FOR PACKAGING -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 16 Jan 54

Influenced by the drive for increased production and economy, careful study of the use of lumber has produced large savings for the government. Many bad practices have been discovered. Long pieces of lumber have been used where short ones could have been employed, thick boards where thin boards would suffice and the best grade where poorer quality would have been satisfactory.

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In May 1953, a lumber mill in Harbin making soy sauce casks for a local products company sawed up good red pine boards 8 meters long. Other industries making boxes for matches, rubber shoes, cigarettes, beer, medicines, and machines generally used long thick boards. Some firms even took exceptionally large square timbers and saved them into laths.

The main difficulty has been lack of coordination between the lumber mills and those whom they supply. All the state lumber mills produce large quantities of boards for making boxes and laths, but the users of lumber have not been aware of this fact and, planning to make up their own boards, have requested large sizes of timber.

Lumber waste has also been caused by the method of grading. Most lumber is labeled either first or second grades because most orders stipulate that first grade or second grade lumber is required. However, according to government regulations, all lumber must be distributed in equal proportions of first, second, and third grade material. The result is that when the essential need is for first grade lumber all three grades are furnished. When only third grade is called for, again all three grades are supplied.

Some of these inconsistencies are being corrected. For example, in the Northeast, Lumber Mill No 25 has made a contract with the Mukden Brewery to furnish boards just the size needed for its cases of beer. The cost of each case is thus reduced from about 15,000 yuan to only 4,000 yuan and the monthly saving for the brewery amounts to 2,300,000 yuan.

LAN-CHOU TO PLANT TREES ON SURROUNDING HILLS -- Tientsin, Ta Kung Pao, 19 Oct 53

In the municipality of Lan-chou, Kansu Province, the Office of Agriculture and Forestry of the Lan-chou People's Government made a survey in the summer of 1953 of the forestry needs in the area surrounding the city, an area of some 170 square li. It was decided to dig water trenches with a total length of 2,400,000 feet, in the hills north and south of Lan-chou during the latter half of 1953. In these trenches one million trees will be planted. Between the first of June and the middle of October one million feet of trenches have already been dug and it is estimated that the total amount will be completed by the end of October. At the same time 240,000 holes will be dug and an attempt will be made to raise peach and almond trees.

AFFORESTATION IN FUKIEN PROVINCE -- Hong Kong, Ta Kung Pao, 23 Jan 54

Hui-an Hsien, Fukien Province, has within 2 years planted 45,000 mou of trees. The Central People's Government has provided large loans of money, a free supply of seedlings, and has trained 400 men in the technique of tree planting. Many bare hills have become green again. As the season for planting trees approaches, public and private tree nurseries are ready with a supply of 10 million seedlings of all kinds of trees.

FOREST BELT ALONG THE YELLOW RIVER -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 10 Sep 53

During the last 4 years, 46 million trees have been planted along the banks of the Yellow River. This belt will eventually protect 2 million mou of cultivated land from drifting sand. The most serious shifting of sand has already been stopped.

The protective belt is divided into two sections. One starts from Cheng-chou and passes through Chung-mou, Wei-shih, Fu-kou and Hsi-hua to Huai-yang in Honan. The total length is about 250 kilometers. A second belt starts at Lan-feng and extends east through Min-ch'uan and Shang-ch'iu to Yu'cheng. The length

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is about 100 kilometers. Other small belts of trees have been planted between Lan-feng, K'ao-ch'eng, and Ts'ao Hsien in Shantung Province, between Min-ch'uan and Yu-hsiang-p'u in Sui Hsien, Anhwei, and between Min-ch'uan and Ning-ling, Honan.

The trees in these shelter belts are already 2-3 meters high, the tallest attaining a height of 7 meters.

SOVIET EXPERT ADVISES EUCALYPTUS TREES FOR SOUTH CHINA -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 9 Nov 53

The Ministry of Forestry is urging all provinces in southern China to plant eucalyptus trees. This follows the advice given by a Soviet forestry expert, Nenrokomou (Nieh-na-lo-k'uo-mo-fu), after he had closely examined the forestry sections in southern China. The eucalyptus tree is suited for planting in South China.

The Ministry of Forestry has already telegraphed instructions to those in charge of provincial forestry matters in Central-South, East China, and the Southwest to the effect that starting in 1954, they are to promote the planting of eucalyptus trees.

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